Difficulties being faced by Rohtak Telephone subscribers

1529. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the telephone subscribers in Rohtak are being harassed by excess billing by Rohtak Telephones;

(b) whether it is a fact that telephone connections were disconnected in spite of excess billing and in spite of the fact that the subscribers had requested for disconnection of STD facility: and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Telephone Department is short of funds to purchase equipments for disconnecting STD facility in Rohtak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. There is no harrasment to telephone subscribers Rohtak on account of excess billing. The complaints of excess billing are not abnormal.

(b) Telephones are disconnected only for non-payment of telephone bills, after observing codified procedures of the Department. Excess billing complaints and requests for barring STD facility have no bearing on disconnection of telephones.

(c) There is no shortage of funds for purchasing equipment for barring STD facility. GM is taking steps to provide this equipment for those who have asked for STD barring.

Arrears to be recovered by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

1530. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of arrears is to be recovered by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited from their subscribers;

(b) what is the number of subscribers who are to pay an arrear amount of more than Rs. 50,000/- to the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited: and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the defaulting subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Twin Tower Project

1531. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE) is allegedly plagued by corruption charges in the construction of a Rs. 50 crore Twin Tower Project across Yamuna in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the corruption charges levelled against SCOPE and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) A news item titled SCOPE plagued by corruption appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 26-4-88. The allegation to the effect that the architects for the Twin Tower Project have been given a free hand for creating scope for corruption in the construction of the building is not correct. Overall responsibiilty and control for the project including cost and quality control lies with SCOPE who have appointed a Building Committee for the purpose of project management and the service of NIDC, a public sector organisation have been engaged for providing assistance in this regard. Special test checks have

been arranged through recognised institutions to ensure quality control.

However some allegations against some members of Public Enterprises Service Association, which was originally responsible for the construction of this complex are under the investigation of the CBI. PESA now stands dissolved.

Use of Neem production as insecticides

1532. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the neem products have been found suitable for commercial application as insecticides and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether neem products are being made and marketed by any public sector unit, such as Hindustan Insecticides Limited and if so, what are the details thereof including the value of exports made during the last three years, year-wise?

The MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Inspection under Companies Act 1956

1523. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of inspections carried out under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 from 1st June, 1987 to 15th July, 1988;

(b) what is the number of violations under each Section of the Act, detected during these inspections and the number of prosecutions launched; and

(c) what are the reasons for not initiating prosecutions in the remaining cases?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as early as possible.

Rate of Royalty in Crude Oil

1534. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 586 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1988 and state:

(a) the rates of royalty for crude oil being paid at present to the concerned States;

(b) whether keeping in view the rising prices of crude in the country, Government would increase the rates of royalty; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The present rate of royalty on crude oil is Rs. 192/- per metric tonne.

(b) and (c) Royalty is fixed after taking into account several considerations including the need to provide reasonable revenue to the States where oil is produced, the extent to which it would add to the price of petroleum products, etc. According to the Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, it cannot exceed 20 per cent of the well-head price of crude oil. The present base price of crude oil, to which the presesnt rate of royalty is related, is Rs. 968/- per tonne There has been no change in this base price since the present rate of royalty was fixed. The next review of the rate of royalty will take into account all relevant factors.

Pro-Rata wages to casual labourers in P&T Department

1535. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: